



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2010

For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Press_Releases/index.html

U.S. Citizen Sentenced to 88 Months For Traveling to Chile to Sexually Abuse Child Prostitute

WASHINGTON - Isidro Hinojosa Benavides, age 77, was sentenced to 88 months of incarceration on June 18, 2010 before the Honorable Richard Leon, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, for the crime of Engaging in Illicit Sexual Conduct in Foreign Places, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2423(c), announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent in Charge, Washington Field Office, John P. Torres. Benavides had pled guilty earlier to this offense on February 2, 2010.

At the time of his guilty plea, Benavides admitted that between May 2002 and April 2004, he traveled between the United States and Chile and maintained various residences in Santiago, Chile. During this period, Benavides met the victim, a twelve-year-old girl. Thereafter, Benavides on numerous occasions invited the victim to his various residences where he would supply her and other young girls with food, money and glue to inhale. Benavides in return would then call the twelve-year-old victim into his bedroom where he would disrobe her, fondle her and show her pornographic images on his computer and television. He would then have her perform oral sex on him. Afterwards, Benavides would give the victim the Chilean equivalent of between five and ten U.S. dollars. Benavides continued the sexual abuse of this victim until April 2004 when the victim turned thirteen years old. Further investigation of this case by Chilean and United States law enforcement authorities also revealed that Benavides had routinely sexually abused other young girls in Chile during this time period in the same manner.

Benavides was sentenced to 88 months of incarceration to be followed by 10 years of supervised release which includes the requirement that he register as a sex offender and comply with numerous conditions routinely imposed upon sex offenders.

“This case is yet another reminder that those who have a sexual interest in children and believe they can evade detection and prosecution by committing these horrific crimes overseas are wrong,” said John P. Torres, Special Agent in Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Washington,

D.C. “ICE and our foreign law enforcement partners will continue to work together to combat this problem and bring the offenders to justice.”

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen and Special Agent in Charge Torres praised the investigative and arrest work of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), Ice Cyber Crime Center, Policia de Investigacion of Chile, Gendarmeria Nacional de Argentina (national border police), and, Policia Federal de Argentina, INTERPOL Unit. They also praised Nicholette Marino and Rudy Orjales of the Office of International Affairs for the U.S. Department of Justice, Myesha Braden and Michael Yoon, of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section for the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the ICE Attache in Buenos Aires, Argentine judicial authorities, Mendoza Province, the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and, Chilean judicial authorities. U.S. Attorney Machen and Special Agent in Charge Torres also commended Kim Herd, Yvonne Bryant and Iris Vega of the Victim Witness Unit of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for their extensive work with the victims and witnesses in the case. Finally, they commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Schmidt for investigating the case and Assistant U.S. Attorney Shana Fulton for prosecuting the case.